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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05935 141310Z

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ACTION EA 19

INFO SS 35,GPM 03,SP 02,H 02,SAH 03,SAL 01,IO 21,INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,
DOD 01,NSAE 00,RSC 01,USIA 12,NSC 10,AID 30,RSR 01,/156 W

R 140840Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6844
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4243
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2527
DANANG 961

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Lyntberry DATE 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. AUTH(S)
E. DEPSEC DIR ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ E.O. 12356 ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

UNCLAS SAIGON 5935

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 5564

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE CAREFUL" WHICH APPEARED IN THE OFFICIAL RVNAF NEWSPAPER TIEN TUYEN SEPTEMBER 13:
QUOTE
REPORTING TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON THE SEPTEMBER 3, 1967 ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, A MEMBER OF THE US OBSERVATION TEAM SAID HE "WAS EMBARRASSED BY THE US SENDING OBSERVERS TO VIETNAM LIKE TEACHERS OBSERVING THEIR STUDENTS

PAGE 2 RUOJIR 5935 UNCLAS
CAST BALLOTS". THE PRESIDENT PROMPTLY REPLIED: "NEXT YEAR, WE WILL ASK VIETNAM TO SEND OBSERVERS HERE TO OBSERVE OUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS".

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 05935 141310Z

IN VIETNAM, US AMBASSADOR BUNKER, WHEN ASKED HIS OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE ELECTED ARMY GENERALS WOULD INVITE THE CIVILIAN PERSONALITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT, SAID: "I THINK THEY WILL, BUT IT'S THEIR BUSINESS, NOT MINE".

ON US GOVERNMENT'S SIDE, STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND AMBASSADOR BUNKER WERE INDEED SKILLFUL SINCE BOTH AVOIDED A POSTURE OF INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER NATION ALTHOUGH NO ONE DENIES THE FACT THAT "US ADVICE" WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON VIETNAM.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF GIVING "ADVICE".

IF THE ADVICE IS NOT FOLLOWED, IT DOESN'T MATTER, SINCE THE POSITION OF ONE PERSON REGARDING A MATTER CAN BE DIFFERENT FROM ANOTHER'S. AND THIS IS THE VERY BASIS OF DEMOCRACY. IT IS OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE THAT, RIGHT IN THE UNITED STATES, DEMOCRATIC SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN DON'T SHARE THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON WHO IS HIMSELF A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 5935 UNCLAS

THUS, IF THE AMERICANS ARE HERE TO HELP THE VIETNAMESE ADVANCE TOWARD DEMOCRACY, THEY PROBABLY UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE THAT THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY IS THE FREEDOM TO DISAGREE.

FOR THAT REASON, THE MORE ADMIRATION THE PEOPLE SHOW FOR THE ATTITUDE AND THE SERIOUS STATEMENTS OF THE US PRESIDENT AND THE US AMBASSADOR HERE, THE MORE THEY ARE DISCONTENT OVER THE "IRRESPONSIBLE" STATEMENTS BY CERTAIN AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND CERTAIN SO-CALLED "US OFFICIALS" WHICH INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF VIETNAM IN TOO BLUNT A MANNER.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN OUR VERY HOMELAND TO SERVE THE VIETNAMESE NATION AND PEOPLE. ITS PROGRAMS AND POLICIES WILL BE MAPPED OUT RIGHT HERE SINCE THEY MUST SUIT THE LOCAL SITUATION. STILL, ONE DOESN'T KNOW WHY AMERICANS

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WHO LIVE ON AMERICAN SOIL SAY THEY "WANT THIS OR THAT".

LET THEM BE CAREFUL, OTHERWISE, WORLD OPINION WILL BE UNFAVORABLE AND THE ENEMY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISTORT THE FACT THAT THE ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY ROLE OF AMERICANS IN VIETNAM HAS EXCEEDED ITS LIMITS AND TAKEN THE FORM OF "COMMAND".

IF THE AMERICANS THINK THAT A LEGAL REGIME SHOULD BE SET UP IN VIETNAM TO CARRY OUT THEIR OWN "SUBJECTIVE" VIEWS, THEY WILL DESTROY ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP DEMOCRACY AND TO BUILD

"A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE" WHICH BOTH THE VIETNAMESE AND THE AMERICANS DESIRE.
A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ONLY BE SO AT THE TIME WHEN BALLOTS ARE CAST BUT SHOULD, THROUGH ITS ACTS, REMAIN SO FROM THE FIRST THROUGH THE LAST DAY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE. WERE A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE TO ACT AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE (EVEN IF IT WISHES TO SERVE THEM), HOW COULD IT ENJOY ENOUGH PRESTIGE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY?

IT MAY BE THAT CERTAIN AMERICANS DON'T REALLY WANT TO INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF VIETNAM BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR EXUBERANCE OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS, COULD IT BE THAT THEY OVER-ZEALOUSLY "CONTRIBUTED IDEAS" IN A "CARELESS" MANNER?

IF THIS IS THE CASE, THEN THE "EXCESS OF ZEAL" SHOULD BE CONTROLLED, BECAUSE IT CAN ONLY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
NOW IS THE TIME WHEN ONE SHOULD TALK LITTLE AND DO MUCH.

WE ALSO NOTED A MISTAKE THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD HASTEN TO CORRECT: THEY'VE TALKED A LITTLE TOO MUCH, AND HAVE DONE SO BEFORE THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED HAVE SPOKEN, THAT IS THE PEOPLE AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM. UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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